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A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:02 p.m., May 24, 2011

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor Robert T. Wandrei

Members absent: Councilwoman Mary L. Flood and Councilman Guy E. Murray, Jr.

Staff present: City Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Tharp opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Tharp declared that the minutes of an adjourned Council meeting held on May 10, 2011, and the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on May 10, 2011, were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- There will be construction work on Lake Drive starting May 25 replacing a sanitary sewer line which will probably take a number of weeks - other construction work on the drainage system will commence. He advised avoiding Lake Avenue.
- The enforcement period for the "Click It or Ticket" program has begun statewide. Police will be issuing tickets for people not wearing their seatbelts.
- The Public Hearing regarding the appointment of members to the City School Board is just a public hearing and the interviews will take place at a future Council meeting.

Mayor Tharp recognized Mr. Elmer Hodge who was present with Cub Scout Pack 38.

Mr. Hodge stated the Cub Scouts were at the meeting to earn their government merit badges. Mr. Hodge introduced the Cub Scout Leaders, Erica Martin and Sherry Funk.

Ms. Martin introduced each Cub Scout: James Thomas, Colt R, Damien Jones, Tyler Martin, and Nicholas Funk. The Scouts had a photo taken with Council members.

The Mayor spoke about the untimely death of Mr. Jim Melton, who was a cornerstone within the community business wise, a dear personal friend of his, and one of the finest Christian men he had ever known. Mayor Tharp said that his loss will be felt by many for a long time and it is a void that will never be filled.

Councilman Vest, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Committee met earlier in the evening and the City is on track to finish the fiscal year close to what has been budgeted which is because of all the hard work of a lot of people. Councilman Vest

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reported that Bedford County informed the City staff this week that it has budget constraints and will not be able to help participate in the fireworks program which was paying for one half of the fireworks. Councilman Vest said the City is going ahead with the program this year, but this may be the final year unless a sponsor or other help can be secured. The fireworks program costs approximately \$14,000.

Mayor Tharp stated that the Public Hearing regarding the lease with Goose Creek Studios was moved to be the first public hearing on the agenda.

The City Manager read aloud the Public Hearing Notice as follows:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
LEASE OF CITY PROPERTY  
(0.1075 Acres at the Rear of Goose Creek Studio Property)**

NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, ("the Council") will hold a public hearing on a proposed lease of a small lot containing 0.1075 acres located at the rear of the Goose Creek Studio, LLC property, (302 Court Street). The lease provides for the use of the premises by the tenant for a sculpture garden in connection with its art gallery. A copy of the proposed lease is on file at the City Manager's office in the municipal building.

The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held at the City Council meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, before the Council in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia. Any person interested in the proposed lease may appear at the hearing and present his or her views.

Mayor Tharp opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

The Mayor explained that the purpose of the public hearing regarding appointment of members to the City School Board was to gain input from citizens as far as what they are looking for in people who will be appointed to the Board. Mayor Tharp stated that interviews with candidates will take place on June 14 in open session.

The notice of Public Hearing follows:

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## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 22.1-29.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the City Council of the City of Bedford will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on May 24, 2011, in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building, for the purpose of receiving the views of citizens on the appointment of members to the City School Board.

Any citizens who wish to be considered for appointment to the City School Board should notify the office of the City Manager, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, VA 24523, no later than May 17, 2011.

Mayor Tharp opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

The following individuals spoke:

- Patricia Robertson, 706 Longwood Avenue, mother of a middle school student, spoke about the impact the recent changes made by the County School Board will have on Bedford Middle School - the poor representation of Mickey VanDerwerker on behalf of the students, and her inability to get in touch with Ms. VanDerwerker – supports the appointment of Tara Warner and Tabitha King
- Sarah Holdren, 622 Westview Avenue, said that a City School Board member must encourage open and positive communication with the County School Board as well as nurture sustaining relationships that foster appropriate outcomes for all parties involved. Ms. Holdren stated she supports the appointment of Tara Warner, Tabitha King, and Phyllis Parker
- Dick Thomas, 991 Ashland Avenue, stated he wanted to echo what Ms. Holdren said. Mr. Thomas said he observed Tara Warner and Tabitha King working with others on school issues during the past few months and has been impressed with their integrity and their command of the situation that has been unfolding, and their in-depth understanding of the needs of the children. Mr. Thomas asked Council to give consideration to appointing Ms. Warner and Ms. King.
- Barbara Owen, 420 Avenel Avenue, spoke about inequity in the City school zone – she spoke in favor of appointing Ms. Warner, Ms. King, and Ms. Parker.
- Wanda Gardner, 1386 Kenmar Drive, stated her son attends Bedford Primary School. She recommended that Council appoint Ms. King, Ms. Warner, and Ms. Parker.
- Kevin Willis, 1813 Vista Circle, said he felt the school board members should have the characteristics of the Boy Scouts: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,

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courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Ms. Willis supported the appointment of Ms. Warner, Ms. King, and Ms. Parker.

As there were no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

The City Manager read aloud the following Public Hearing Notice:

**NOTICE  
SYNOPSIS OF BUDGET FOR  
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012  
CITY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council May 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Hall of the City Municipal Building in relation to the budget for the City of Bedford for fiscal year 2011-12, at which time any citizen of the City shall have the right to attend and state his or her views. Detailed copies of the budget are available for inspection during normal office hours in the office of the City Manager and the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Tharp opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

City Manager Kolakowski reported that Patrick Ellis and Mitchell Bond, owners of Goose Creek Studio, LLC., have requested to lease a portion of the City owned lot located at the back of 302 Court Street where their art gallery and framing business will relocate in early July or sooner. The company proposes construction of a sculpture garden on the leased premises. The City staff has negotiated a lease for use of the portion of the City property in return for a yearly rental of \$250 during a 5 year period. The lease requires that liability insurance be provided insuring both Goose Creek and the City.

The City Manager said that any leasing of public property requires a public hearing after notice of the hearing has been placed in the newspaper. The appropriate Notice has run for one week as required by law. The proposed lease has been reviewed by the City Manager on behalf of the City, and by the proprietors of Goose Creek. Mr. Kolakowski stated that Council was requested, by proper motion, to approve the lease for use of City property between the City of Bedford and Goose Creek Studio, LLC dated May 20, 2011.

On motion by Councilman Vest, seconded by Councilman Rush, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved the lease with Goose Creek Studio, LLC, for use or a portion of a public parking lot. Roll call vote follows:

Councilwoman Flood	absent
Councilman Murray	absent
Councilman Rush	aye

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Councilman Stanley		aye
Councilman Vest	aye	
Vice Mayor Wandrei		aye
Mayor Tharp		aye

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.